From: Tom Cochran
To: Keith, Kirsten
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USCM 2017 Nominating Committee Appointed

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April 20, 2017
Washington, D.C.

President Cornett Names 2017 Nominating Committee - Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie

to Chair

Conference President Mick Cornett has announced our 2017 Nominating Committee. Our President has appointed Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie to serve as Chair. Under our rules all Past Presidents currently serving as mayor are automatic members. Today the only Past President still in office is Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz. Hence, Mayor Kautz will serve along with 10 other mayors and 2 alternates. They are:

Frank Cownie – Des Moines – Chair
Greg Fischer– Louisville
James Schmitt – Green Bay
Nan Whaley – Dayton
Richard Berry – Albuquerque
Acquanetta Warren – Fontana
Harry LaRosiliere – Plano
Betsy Price – Fort Worth
William Bell – Birmingham
Steve Adler – Austin
Elizabeth Kautz – Burnsville – Past President

Alternates
1. Joe Ganim – Bridgeport
2. Juan Carlos Bermudez – Doral

That list makes up the 11 voting members appointed today by Mayor Cornett and the 2 alternates to move up to voting members if an appointed mayor is not present to vote in Miami Beach, or recuses themselves to run for an open position.

This year we have 2 openings for Trustees and 6 openings for Advisory Board Members. If one of the 10 Cornett appointed members decides that he or she wants to be a candidate for one of the open slots, he or she must recuse themselves from serving on the Nominating Committee and alternates appointed will move to voting status on the Nominating Committee.

Current President Cornett and Vice Presidents Landrieu of New Orleans and Benjamin of Columbia do not serve on the Nominating Committee.

Repeating, these are the initial appointments of President Cornett and our rules require the Cornett appointed members to recuse themselves from serving on the Nominating Committee if they decide to be a candidate for an open position. If recusals do happen, we will update you on the new list. Alternates are moved up automatically, first #1 and then #2.

Letters of appointment are being sent now. Sue Fredeen is the staff person who serves as my primary person for the Nominating Committee. She will forward all information to all members. She can be contacted at sfredeen@usmayors.org

The Nominating Committee will meet on Saturday June 24, during our 85th Annual Meeting at The Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach. The committee's recommendations will be presented by Chairman Frank Cownie for a vote during our plenary business session on Monday June 26.

CDBG Press Event - Tarrant County Commissioner Brooks, VP of NACo says "Meat Axe" Was Used

We continue to move with our partners in our grassroots activity through the second week of the congressional spring break. This week is National CDBG Week and city and county officials are involved in bringing members of Congress to be a part of many events across the nation.

Yesterday, we joined with other organizations to continue our fight to stop the elimination of CDBG as proposed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the Administration.

Newton Mayor Setti Warren, Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin, Piscataway Mayor Brian Whaler, Tarrant County Texas Commissioner Roy Brooks, and NDCA President Bonnie Moore of Shreveport all joined in a telephonic press conference.

All mayors and NCDA President Moore cited statistics and gave examples of the tremendous success of CDBG since its inception in 1974. The facts are there. The facts are overwhelming, and yet we have to continue to prove the worth of this program.

Commissioner Brooks, Vice President of NACo suggests that the Administration took a “meat axe” approach to the proposed budget instead of “a scalpel.” He says the reason the Administration proposed to eliminate CDBG is that it is a big program, an easy target. Commissioner Brooks believes that the CDBG program is essential to his county, the smaller cities inside his county, and the 2 large cities of Irving and Fort Worth.

We appreciate the participation in our press conference yesterday. Click for Route 50 Article and the USCM release we issued after the call.

The Revival of Healthcare, Second Time Around, In Discussion

President Trump continues to say he wants healthcare brought back up for another go around to repeal and replace Obamacare. Sources indicate the Freedom Caucus, the Republican conservatives, are having discussion with the Tuesday Group, the moderate Republicans, trying to reach a consensus. The President seems determined to have a House vote during the first 100 days, and that period of his new presidency ends next week. We will monitor these developments because we have clear policy on key issues inside any healthcare bill that must be included and protected before we lend our support.

A Blueberry in a Bowl of Tomato Soup – Austin, Texas and the United States of America

While the federal government attempts to stop the local funds we send to Washington from coming back to the cities and our people, many cities are bearing the brunt of hostile Governors and State Legislatures.

Recently, several mayors and I discussed just how common the state hostility and lack of understanding is across the nation.

Madison Mayor Paul Soglin continues to warn us of the "Wisconsinization" of the nation, citing what his state government is doing to change the political power

and landscape in his state. Nashville Mayor Megan Barry has also has expressed concern and we had a call about this when I was in Austin with Mayor Steve Adler.

Lately we cannot ignore what our members are telling us and many members are asking for more discussion of the state/city conflicts. One thing we could do is learn from other mayors as to what is the “best practice” to be used to protect your city from a hostile Governor and State Legislature.

In Texas last month Governor Greg Abbott threw his support behind "a broad-based law” that says the state would preempt local regulations. He said that the country is not called "the United States of Municipalities" he cites the 10th Amendment and his interpretation is the delegation of power does not go to cities.

Mayor Adler continues to stand up for the sovereign rights of his city, Austin. Mayor Adler does have allies such as Matt Angle, Director of the Democratic Lone Star Project, who said, "Greg Abbott rolled his big government bandwagon into Fort Worth today to somehow convince local voters to give up their right to local control. Abbott arrogantly insists… all the shots should be called from the State Capitol. He’s turning the principle of conservatism inside out."

The local control fight continues to be a raging one in Texas. Other states are moving against basic powers of our cities. Much of this action comes not just from Governors. Strong opposition to the power of cities to regulate and have the power to act from the will of city residents is being challenged by state governments with powerful rural legislators who blindly vote against the economic power of our cities that provide the economic base for their states.

The fact is that under our system, unfortunately, cities are creatures of our states. To change the state actions against cities will require a national strategy or, at least, more discussions among mayors to share best practices and best tactics. As we meet in June at our Annual Meeting we will follow up with the requests we have had from mayors to facilitate more discussion on the state vs city issues.

Here's a Fact.

Another grim anniversary. On this day, April 20, 1999, at 11:20am two teenage gunmen killed 13 people in a shooting spree at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. Twenty-three people were wounded. Around noon the shooters turned their guns on themselves and committed suicide.

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